REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review of the present application.

Independent claim 10 has been amended, to recite that the liner is made from a leak-free material such that the inner space is configured to direct the cooling medium along a cold side of the liner and within the inner space, and to a burner for combustion in the burner upon exiting the inner space. Independent claims 19 and 20 were amended in a similar manner as independent claim 10. Support for this amendment may be found in FIG. 2; page 10, lines 20-27; page 10, lines 30-32; page 11, lines 4-6; and page 12 line 32 – page 13 line 2 of the original specification, for example. Accordingly, no new matter is presented by these amendments.

Claims 10-26 are pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected claims 10-13 and 19-26 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Beebe et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 15-18 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Beebe in view of Senior. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following amendments attached herein and the following remarks.

Response to Rejections Under Section 102:

The Examiner rejected independent claim 10 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Beebe et al. As discussed above, independent claim 10 has been amended, to recite that the liner is made from a leak-free material such that the inner space is configured to direct the cooling medium along a cold side of the liner and within the inner space, and to a burner for combustion in the burner upon exiting the inner space. Beebe et al. fails to disclose these recitations and accordingly, amended independent claim 10 is patentable.

Beebe et al. discloses a combustor 10 (see FIG. 1) with a preburner section 12, a fuel/air preparation section 14, a catalytic reactor assembly 34, a main combustion assembly 16 and a transition piece 18 (col. 3, lines 62-65). The preburner assembly 12 includes a preburner casing 20, an end cover 22, a fuel nozzle 24, a flow sleeve 26 and a preburner combustion liner 28 within the sleeve 26 (col. 4, lines 3-5). Combustion within the preburner section 12 occurs within the combustion liner 28. Beebe et al. expressly teaches that "Preburner combustion air…is directed within liner 28 via flow sleeve 26 and enters the preburner combustion liner 28 through a plurality of holes formed in the liner 28. The air enters the liner under a pressure

differential across liner 28 and mixes with fuel from fuel nozzle 24 within liner 28" (col. 4, lines 9-14).

Indeed, Beebe et al. expressly teaches away from the claimed invention recited in amended independent claim 10. The Examiner argued that Beebe et al. discloses the recited inner space of independent claim 10 between the flow sleeve 26 and the liner 28. As illustrated in FIG. 1 and expressly taught above, the air passed between the flow sleeve 26 and the liner 28 is configured to pass through holes in the liner 28, to enter the liner 28. Thus, Beebe et al. expressly teaches away from a liner made from a leak-free material such that the inner space is configured to direct the cooling medium along a cold side of the liner and within the inner space, as recited in amended independent claim 10. Instead, Beebe et al. expressly discloses a liner 28 made from a material with holes to accommodate leakage of air into the liner 28 such that the inner space directs the air out of the inner space and into the liner 28. Accordingly, amended independent claim 10 is patentable for this reason alone.

Additionally, Beebe et al. expressly teaches that the space between the flow sleeve 26 and the liner 28 is configured to direct the air through holes formed in the liner 28 and into the liner 28. Indeed, Beebe et al. fails to disclose that the inner space is configured to pass the air to a burner for combustion in the burner upon exiting the inner space, as recited in amended independent claim 10.

In view of the above, amended independent claim 10 is patentable. As discussed above, independent claims 19 and 20 were amended in a similar manner as independent claim 10. The arguments set forth above with regard to amended independent claim 10 are restated herein with regard to amended independent claims 19 and 20. Accordingly, amended independent claims 10, 19 and 20 are patentable. Their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein.

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

The Examiner rejected claims 15-18 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Beebe in view of Senior. As discussed above, amended independent claim 10 is patentable. Claims 15-18, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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